Permanent Lok Adalats should be persons of integrity and adequate experience. Appropriate rules, *inter alia* in this regard, no doubt will have to be framed, if not already in place.

We upheld the validity of the said Act and hope the "Permanent Lok Adalats will be set up at an early date. The Lok Adalats are enacted to primarily bring about settlement amongst the parties. The parties are normally required to be present in person and since the impugned provisions are in the interest of the litigating public, the Lok Adalats shall perform their duties and will function, even if members of the Bar choose not to appear."

Petition is disposed of in the aforesaid terms.

Copies of the order to be sent to the High Courts and also to the Attorney General.

Kalyani.

(S.L. GOYAL)
COURT MASTER

Alternative Dispute Resolution System

556. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) System has been evolved in the country to decongest and avoid recourse to courts;

(b) if so, the details of the various ADR techniques being introduced/ already introduced under the above fast track judicial system; and

(c) the number of disputes resolved, so far, under ADR in various States, particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The techniques of alternative dispute Resolution being introduced/ already introduced in India for settlement of disputes out side Courts, *inter-alia*, include Arbitration, Fast Track Arbitration, Conciliation/Mediation, Negotiation, Mini Trial, Lok Adalats and Consumer Dispute Redressal System, etc.

(c) about 1 Crore 43 lakh cases have been amicably settled through the forum of Lok Adalats across the country, which include 526,378 cases settled by Lok Adalats in Andhra Pradesh. Similarly 15,48,844 complaints have been resolved by various Consumer Redressal forums at National, State and District levels. These include 1,29,640 complaints disposed of by the 25 District Consumer Forums and 1 State Commission in Andhra Pradesh.

Realisation of revenue locked up in litigations

557. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that revenue to the tune of Rs. 60 thousand crore are locked up in litigations;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that lack of strategy to deal with the high volume of court cases and improper allocation of work is contributing to the rising litigated amounts; and

(d) the details of the measures contemplated to realize the revenue locked up in litigations?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Ordinance on Electoral Reforms

558. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently promulgated an Ordinance on Electoral Reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ordinance runs contrary not only to the guidelines issued by the Election Commission in compliance of the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 25th May, 2002, but also to the specific